Uniform Media Policy

*87. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Media Group has raised the issue of a uniform media policy; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The representatives of the India Media Group had basically pleaded for parity, in material particulars, between the guidelines for foreign investment in newspapers and uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India.The eligibility criteria for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels has been revised accordingly in August, 2003. India Media Group appreciated the steps taken and have requested for strict enforcement of guidelines related to FM Radio and DTH.

Anomalies in fixation of duty entitlement pass book rates

*90. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no clear cut guidelines for fixing Duty Entitlement Pass Book Rates for blended socks;

(b) if so, whether it is affecting the exporters who are in the trade of manufacturing of socks and made of cotton/polysters;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Export Promotion Councils like Apparel Export Promotion Council/Synthetic Export Promotion Council are not serious and not supporting the exporters' cause; and

(d) the steps being taken to help and increase the faith of the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) There are clear Guidelines for fixing Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates. These are duly notified in the Handbook of

Procedures (Volume I), under the Expert & Import Policy, 2002—2007. While DEPB rates have been fixed for many items, there are also a large number for which no DEPB rates have been fixed. Blended socks fall in the latter category.

DEPB Scheme is only one of the duty neutralisation schemes available to exporters. Non-fixation of DEPB rates does not necessarily affect exporters adversely, as exporters have the option of availing benefits under other duty neutralization schemes under the EXIM Policy, as also the Duty Drawback Scheme implemented by Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

The proposals for fixation of DEPB Rates are required to be routed through the respective Export Promotion Councils. Complete proposals for fixation of such rates are considered on merits, in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries including Department of Revenue.

Export Promotion Councils have been set up to promote and develop exports from the country. These EPCs are managed by elected bodies chosen by exporter members of the Councils.

Phase-I clinical trial of new drugs

*92. DR. VIJAY MALLYA :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to reverse their earlier stand on the issue of Phase-I clinical trials of new drugs of foreign origin on Indian patients;

(b) whether the proposal is being considered to take advantage of getting access to the latest drugs and therapies in the world developed by foreign MNCs;

(c) whether Government have adopted a policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Earlier as per Schedule Y of Drugs and